



# In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

Jim Hoffman

The Journey 2018

# In the Beginning

- Gen 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”  
27 So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.  
28 Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”



# In the Beginning

- Gen 1:27 So God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.
- So the question arises – did God make Adam, then Eve, and then more humans, or did He create just Adam and Eve?
- The scriptures are quite clear on this question.



# In the Beginning

## • The activities of day #6 -

- Gen 2:7 Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.
- Gen 2:20 He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.
- Gen 2:22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and He brought her to the man.



# In the Beginning

- It would seem that the plain sense of the text is that God made Adam, then He made Eve, and from that one pair came all other humans.
- And that is the way it happened – when people question the likelihood of all of the variations in human beings coming from a single set of parents there are answers.
- And the answers don't even have to come from the Christian community.



# From Answers in Genesis .....

I have been saying, perhaps too often, that the weight of evidence points to “variation within the created kinds.” Do I really mean that all the tremendous variety we see today was built right into the created kinds? Could there be enough variation in two created human beings, for example, to produce all the variation among human beings we see today?

Answer: “Yes, indeed; no problem!” I get some help here from an unexpected source, evolutionist Francisco Ayala.<sup>1</sup> He says that human beings are “heterozygous” for 6.7 percent of their genes on the average. That means that 6 or 7 times in 100, the pair of genes for a given trait differ, like the genes for free or attached ear lobes, or for rolling or not rolling the tongue. Now this may not seem like much, but Ayala calculates a single human couple with just “6.7 percent variety” could produce  $10^{2017}$  children (mathematically, not physically!) before they would run out of variation and have to produce an identical twin. That’s a 1 followed by 2,017 zeroes! The number of atoms in the known universe is a mere  $10^{80}$ , nothing at all compared with the variety that is present in the genes of just two human beings!



# In the Beginning

- As we said, day #6 was a busy day – the most complex life forms were created.
- **First we have the conscious animal life** and then we have the pinnacle of God's creative works – **we have self conscious mankind who is made in the very image of God.**
- And as we peel back the details it becomes apparent that man was created first, he (Adam) named the animals, and then woman was created.



# In the Beginning

- In Genesis 1 we have the summary account and then we are given more details in Genesis 2.
- Gen 1:27 So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

The verse above, Genesis 1:27, shows the equality of man and woman as it pertains to their standing and their likeness to God.





# In the Beginning

- The “women’s rights” movement of our time, much like the environmental and animal rights initiatives, is rooted in the intentions of God.
- Women are every bit the equal of man as she stands before God – she is just as capable and as spiritual as men.
- Gal 3:28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.



# In the Beginning

- And then we have Genesis 2:1 So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. 2 On the seventh day God had finished His work of creation, *so He rested from all His work.*
- Here is the clinching evidence that Eve was created on day #6 of creation along with Adam – in order for God to rest “from all His work” He would by necessity have to have been finished creating.



# In the Beginning

- Now when we come into chapter 2 it becomes evident from the text that it is circling back to day #6 just after God created man – we know this because the man, Adam is alone.
- Gen 2:7 Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.
- While God called the animals forth from the ground, He personally shaped man from the ground and then breathed life into him.



# In the Beginning

- Job 33:4 For the Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
- This sets mankind apart in that we can see our very humble beginnings (formed from the dust) and we can also see a hint of our glorious ending because God took this lump of clay and breathed life into us.
- It was at that point that man is said to have become a living person, or living soul – something that is not said of any other part of creation.



# In the Beginning

- Now we are going to skip ahead just a bit because I promised to teach on the creation of woman this week.
- Adam is created, placed in a garden that God had planted, and God states that it is not good for man to be alone.
- Why? Because God already knows that He is going to command mankind to be fruitful and multiply and that would be impossible for Adam on his own.



# In the Beginning

- This is one of many reasons why woman is said to be the completer of man – Adam could not have fulfilled God’s initial command without Eve.
- There was a necessary biological component to the necessity of woman, but there is more.
- Man, by himself, is insufficient for the tasks God created him for – ruling the universe, procreating, and proclaiming the glory of God.



# In the Beginning

- Gen 2:18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. *I will make a helper who is just right for him.*”
- A helper? Just right for him? What will that look like? What will she look like?
- We are not told anything about the appearance of the woman in the creation account and all those jokes about Adam shouting “WHOA, MAN!” when he saw her might just be hyperbole.



# In the Beginning

- The creation of woman from Adam's rib – the Hebrew word that is translated “rib” in nearly every translation of the Bible actually appears 35 times in scripture.
- The only place the word “tsay-law” is translated as “rib” is in Genesis 2:22, but 20 of the 35 times the word is translated “side”.
- Why would we care? Because later Adam will say of woman, “This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh!” so if it was just the rib, why would he say that?





# In the Beginning

- By the way, it is untrue that man has one less rib than women – that is a fable, a legend and we should speak it because it is so obviously wrong that it discredits us.
- It is interesting that God put Adam into what is said to be a “deep sleep” very much like the way our surgeons do when cutting us open.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> recordings of attempts at anesthesia go back thousands of years and are thought to have emanated from the Genesis account of God’s surgery.



# In the Beginning

- When God made Adam he was perfect in every way – there was however, one thing about Adam that made him incomplete.
- Up to this point in creation God had made everything male and female – but not so with man, Adam was alone. He was perfect, but incomplete.
- So God makes a companion for Adam that is probably mistranslated as “helper”, or “helpmeet” – these words tend to unnecessarily downplay the woman’s role.



# In the Beginning

- There is an entire Hebrew word study that needs to accompany this teaching that is beyond my grasp of Hebrew word etymologies so I must rely on outside sources here.
- The word Genesis uses is “helper”, or sometimes the more archaic “helpmeet” and we tend to look at these words in the English and think woman has a lesser status and more limited role in the world than men.
- But, a better rendering of the text would include wording that emphasizes equal, but different.



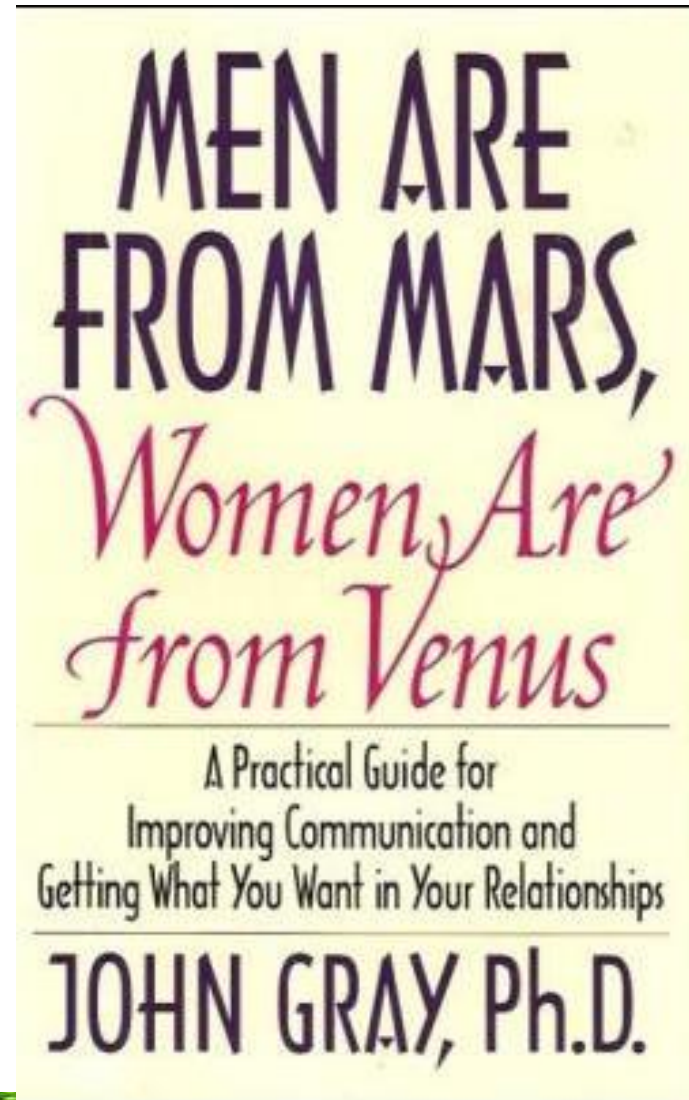
# In the Beginning

- Perhaps, as one commentator puts it, a better rendering of the text would be to describe woman as “corresponding” to man.
- Eve was not created to be subservient to Adam – sadly, most translations of the text make it sound like she is only capable of being man’s assistant, or someone who is not to lead, but only assist man in his pursuits.
- We should conclude that Eve was every bit as intelligent and capable as Adam was for the tasks of populating the earth and ruling the universe.



## In the Beginning

- But there are differences that go way beyond the obvious ones having to do with sex organs and appearance.
- Not all of the differences are enunciated in the Bible, but is it not obvious to all that men and women, as much alike as we are biologically, are very, very, different creatures?



# Questions

